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October 15, 2026

The Honorable Shelley Moore Capito
Chairman
Senate Committee on Environment and
Public Works
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Mike Lee
Chairman
Senate Committee on Energy and Natural
Resources
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Sheldon Whitehouse
Ranking Member
Senate Committee on Environment and
Public Works
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Martin Heinrich
Ranking Member
Senate Committee on Energy and Natural
Resources
Washington, DC 20510

Re: Support for S. 5653, the Bipartisan American Affordability and Jobs Act (BAAJA)

Dear Leaders Capito, Lee, Whitehouse and Heinrich:

On behalf of the Industrial Energy Consumers of America (IECA), we support S. 5653, the Bipartisan American Affordability and Jobs Act (BAAJA).

U.S. manufacturers need permitting reform. For manufacturers across the country, the consequences of inadequate energy infrastructure are already being felt.

America's manufacturing sector employs some 13 million people and forms the backbone of our nation's supply chain, including for national defense goods. Politicians on both sides of the aisle champion domestic manufacturing and support reshoring, investment and the jobs this industry provides. If Congress is serious about strengthening American manufacturing and competing with China, lawmakers must work together to pass the energy permitting reform bill.

Manufacturers depend on reliable, affordable energy. Without additional infrastructure in the form of natural gas pipelines, transmission and generation, our manufacturing supply chain will become increasingly fragile and even break.

The warning signs are already glaring. Our members report that in September, one of our nation's lowest natural gas demand months, five interstate natural gas systems restricted natural gas to manufacturing companies due to inadequate capacity, raising serious concerns about what will happen this winter at peak demand. Last winter, 47 natural gas pipelines restricted or curtailed supply to manufacturers, resulting in significant economic costs and disruption to U.S. supply chains. Some companies paid over \$100/MM Btu for natural gas.

These constraints threaten U.S. competitiveness and increase our dependence on foreign supply chains. We need energy infrastructure, and permitting reform must be a priority.

Sincerely,

Paul N. Cicio

Paul N. Cicio

President & CEO

The Industrial Energy Consumers of America is a nonpartisan association of leading manufacturing companies with \$1.3 trillion in annual sales, over 12,000 facilities nationwide, and with more than 1.9 million employees. One hundred percent of IECA members are manufacturing companies whose competitiveness is largely determined by the cost and reliability of natural gas and electricity. IECA's sole mission is to reduce and avoid energy costs and increase energy reliability through advocacy in Congress and regulatory agencies, such as the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC). IECA membership represents a diverse set of industries including chemicals, plastics, steel, iron ore, aluminum, paper, food processing, defense industries, fertilizer, insulation, glass, industrial gases, pharmaceutical, consumer goods, building products, automotive, independent oil refining, and cement.